

PROVIDER BULLETIN

PROVIDER INFORMATION



November 2, 2020

New Medical, Medical Drug and Behavioral Health Policy Management Updates— Effective January 4, 2021

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) will be expanding utilization management requirements, including prior authorization (PA) requirements.

As stewards of healthcare expenditures for our subscribers, we are charged with ensuring they receive the highest quality, evidence-based care. This is accomplished through expanded development of medical policies and through management of these policies to include the PA process. The primary purpose of the PA process is to ensure that evidence-based care is provided to our subscribers, driving quality, safety, and affordability.

The following prior authorization changes will be effective January 4, 2021:

Policy #	Policy Title/ Service	New Policy	Prior Authorization Requirement	Line(s) of Business
IV-169 (replacing II-73)	Left Atrial Appendage Occluder Devices	No	New	Commercial
NCD 20.34	Percutaneous Left Atrial Appendage Closure (LAAC)	No	New	Medicare Advantage

Products Impacted

The information in this bulletin applies **only** to subscribers who have coverage through Commercial and Medicare Advantage lines of business.

Submitting a PA Request when Applicable

- **Providers may submit PA requests for any treatment in the above table starting December 28, 2020.**
- Providers must check applicable Blue Cross policy and **attach all required clinical documentation** with the PA request. PA requests will be reviewed when patient-specific, relevant medical documentation has been submitted supporting the medical necessity of the service. Failure to submit required information may result in review delays or a denial of the request due to insufficient information to support medical necessity. If a provider does not obtain the required PA before rendering services, Blue Cross will deny claims as provider liability for lack of prior authorization.
- PA approval will be based on the Blue Cross policy criteria. To review Blue Cross criteria:
 - Go to providers.bluecrossmn.com
 - Under Tools & Resources, select “Medical Policy”, and read/accept the Blue Cross Medical Policy Statement
 - Select the “+” (plus) sign next to Medical and Behavioral Health Policies, then select “Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota Medical Policies” to access policy criteria.

- Current and future PA requirements can be found using the *Is Authorization Required* tool in the Availity® portal prior to submitting a PA request. Prior Authorization Lists are also updated to reflect additional PA requirements on the effective date of the management change and includes applicable codes. To access the pdf Prior Authorization Lists for all lines of business:
 - Go to providers.bluecrossmn.com
 - Under Tools & Resources, select “Medical Policy”, and read/accept the Blue Cross Medical Policy Statement
 - Select the “+” (plus) sign next to “Utilization Management” to access the Prior Authorization Lists.
- If a provider does not obtain the required PA before rendering services, Blue Cross will deny claims as provider liability for lack of prior authorization. The requirement applies to subscribers starting therapy and to those already being treated with a therapy noted above.

Prior Authorization Requests

- Participating providers must submit PA requests online via our free [Availity®](#) provider portal
- For medical drugs, PA’s can also be submitted using a [NCPDP](#) standard XML file feed to Blue Cross through CenterX, via an integrated Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system. To learn how to do this, providers should contact their EMR vendor for assistance.
- Out of state, non-contracted providers can submit a PA request to Blue Cross by either using the electronic processes above, the [fax form](#) located under the Forms & Publications section on the Blue Cross website, or their own PA form.

Note: An approved PA does not guarantee coverage under a subscriber’s benefit plan. Subscriber benefit plans vary in coverage and some plans may not provide coverage for certain services discussed in the medical policies.

Reminder Regarding Medical Policy Updates & Changes:

Medical Policy changes are communicated in the Upcoming Medical Policy Notifications section of the Blue Cross Medical and Behavioral Health Policy website. The Upcoming Policies section lists new, revised, or inactivated policies approved by the Blue Cross Medical and Behavioral Health Policy Committee and are effective at minimum 45 days from the date they were posted. To access the website:

- Go to providers.bluecrossmn.com
- Under Tools & Resources, select “Medical Policy”, and read/accept the Blue Cross Medical Policy Statement
- Select the “+” (plus) sign next to “Medical and Behavioral Health Policies” to see the Upcoming Medical Policy Notifications section

Questions?

If you have questions, please contact provider services at (651) 662-5200 or 1-800-262-0820.